

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/730,296

Examiner

Carlos Lugo

Applicant(s)

SMOCK ET AL.

Art Unit

3676

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to applicant's amendment filed on November 23, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 11,13,16-21,23,26,27,29 and 30.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is in response to applicant's amendment filed on November 23, 2005.

Terminal Disclaimer

2. The terminal disclaimer filed on November 23, 2005 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application, which would extend beyond the expiration date of any patent granted on Application Number 10/730,475 has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. **Claims 11,13,16-21,23,26,27,29 and 30 are allowed.**

Reasons For Allowance

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 11,18, and 21 are allowable over the prior art of record because the teachings of the references taken as a whole do not teach or render obvious the combination set forth, including that the mechanism further comprises a lever and a link connecting the lever and the latch (claims 11 and 21) and that the mechanism comprises a blockable member that is couple to the latch (claim 18).

As to claims 11 and 21, Tame (US 4,796,932) fails to disclose that the lock mechanism further comprises a lever and a link connecting the lever and the latch.

Phillips (US 6,079,756) discloses a lock mechanism comprising a mounting plate (30); a latch (4); a follower surface (46); an actuator pin (60); a blocker (86); and an electromechanical actuator (82) is adapted to move the blocker.

However, Phillips fails to disclose that mechanism further comprises a lever and a link connecting the lever and the latch.

Arute (US 4,593,945) discloses an oven lock mechanism comprising a mounting plate (10); a latch (24); an actuator pin (28); a blocker (26); and an electromechanical actuator (29).

However, Arute also fails to disclose that the mechanism further comprises a lever and a link connecting the lever and the latch. Further, Arute fails to disclose that the latch includes a follower surface that the actuator pin actuates.

As to claim 18, Tame, Phillips or Arute fails to disclose that the mechanism comprises a blockable member that is couple to the latch.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Carlos Lugo whose telephone number 571-272-7058. The examiner can normally be reached on 9-6pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Glessner can be reached on 571-272-6843. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-306-5771.

C.L.

Carlos Lugo
Patent Examiner
AU 3676

February 2, 2006.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian E. Glessner", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**BRIAN E. GLESSNER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**